

# CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS SERVICE

WEEK ENDING: July 31, 2005  
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FREQUENCY: Weekly  
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## WEATHER



Strong high pressure over the western U.S. resulted in another very warm week for California. A high pressure ridge was centered over the State at the start of the week, and then gradually shifted eastward as a low pressure system moved across the eastern Pacific. As the week progressed, this shift brought a flow of moist and warm air from the south. The increased moisture led to the development of thunderstorms over the mountains of Southern California by Thursday. The monsoonal flow continued northward, and mountain thunderstorm activity spread into the southern and central Sierra Nevada Mountains by the weekend. Inland valley temperatures through the week remained above normal, while areas immediately along the coast stayed cool, as marine air was drawn inland by the intense heat of the interior.

## FIELD CROPS

**Rice** fields continued to thrive in the summer heat. The continued heat slowed growth in some alfalfa **hay**, **cotton**, and **corn** fields. Cotton was blooming and bolls setting. Corn planting was complete. Some alfalfa hay fields were cut, wind rowed, raked, and baled, while other fields were irrigated. **Wheat** harvest was complete in Merced County. Wheat straw was baled. **Sunflower** harvest began in Glenn County. **Chickpea** harvest began in Sutter County, while dry lima **bean** planting concluded in Merced County.

## FRUIT CROPS

Cultivation, weed control, and irrigation continued in tree fruit orchards. Harvesting of Mission and Brown Turkey **figs** remained underway. Early **pomegranate** varieties were sizing well and beginning to color. Stone fruit harvesting continued. Overall, the quality of the harvested stone fruit was very good, with only some heat damage observed in more sensitive varieties. Among the varieties harvested were Elegant Lady and Zee Lady **peaches**; Friar and Flavorich **plums**; Dapple Dandy and Flavor Grenade **pluots**; and Grand Pearl and Kay Pearl **nectarines**. Some harvested tree fruit blocks were being topped, fertilized, and irrigated. **Grape** clusters continued to mature in some vineyards, while field crews continued to pick Flame Seedless, Red Globe, Champagne, Thompson Seedless, Black Emerald, and Fantasy grapes in other vineyards. Lighter exterior color of some harvested grapes was reported as a result of continued high temperatures. **Blackberries** were being harvested in the San Joaquin Valley with good yields reported. Gala **apple** harvest began in parts of the San Joaquin Valley, and some apple harvesting was beginning in areas of Northern California. Valencia **oranges** continued to be harvested at a slow pace and was estimated to be 55-60 percent complete. Some citrus houses suspended their operations due to slow movement. Sunburn damage due to extreme temperatures affected some younger citrus trees that lack canopy. Growers were monitoring and spraying for cutworms, thrips, and red mites in citrus. **Olive** orchard trapping and treatments were taking place for olive fruit fly.

## NUT CROPS

**Almond** hull split continued to be noted in many almond orchards. Water needs of **walnut**, almond, and **pistachio** groves were being closely assessed by growers in order to help with heat stress. Codling moth treatment continued on walnut orchards. Broken limbs were reported in some walnut orchards in Yuba county due to the heavy crop.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

As a result of above normal temperatures, **tomatoes** were splitting and scalded. Some **lettuce** was also burned. Growers continued to irrigate **broccoli**. Tomatoes were being harvested, while those planted later in the season continued to mature. Green tomato harvest neared completion. **Cantaloup**, **eggplant**, **gourds**, green, string, and bush **beans**, **honeydew**, mixed **melons**, **okra**, **peppers**, pickling **cucumbers**, summer **squash**, sweet **corn**, and **zucchini** harvesting continued.

## LIVESTOCK

Rangeland conditions were extremely dry due to hot weather, and the fire hazard was high. Higher elevation pastures were still in good condition in Tulare County, where cattle movement from lower pastures was complete. The heat was stressing cattle and has slowed down milk production. Beekeepers continued to move beehives to summer locations, such as the mountain forests for wild flowers. Bees were active in blooming vine-seed fields in the Sacramento Valley.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 07/31/05

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 07/31/05	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 07/31/05	January 1 - 07/31/05	Week Ending 07/31/05	July 1 - 07/31/05	July 1 - 07/31/05	July 1 - June 30
	- - Degrees Fahrenheit - -				- - Number - -		- - Inches - -			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	55	-3	66	49	6	0	0.02	0.13	0.19	37.53
Ukiah	78	3	103	54	746	719	0.00	0.00	0.08	37.96
Santa Rosa	66	-2	82	50	403	417	0.00	0.00	0.07	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	63	-1	71	54	275	150	0.00	0.05	0.04	19.70
San Jose	71	0	85	58	658	660	0.00	0.01	0.05	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	820	704	0.00	0.00	0.03	14.21
Salinas AP	63	-1	73	52	222	136	0.00	0.04	0.05	12.44
Monterey FAA	60	-2	71	50	86	39	0.00	0.01	0.07	18.72
King City	71	2	91	50	675	490	0.00	0.00	0.01	11.44
Paso Robles AP	77	2	104	52	894	781	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	87	5	107	65	1,418	1,328	0.00	0.00	0.15	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	85	3	108	64	1,344	1,403	0.00	0.00	0.13	22.29
Chico AFS	84	6	103	63	1,266	1,098	0.00	0.00	0.09	26.32
Marysville	82	3	102	61	1,238	1,333	0.00	0.00	0.08	21.04
Sacramento AP	80	4	100	60	1,056	994	0.00	0.00	0.06	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	82	4	104	61	1,260	1,170	0.03	0.13	0.04	13.95
Fresno	88	5	105	69	1,611	1,522	0.00	0.00	0.02	10.60
Bakersfield	89	4	104	71	1,648	1,678	0.00	0.00	0.01	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	63	-1	73	52	180	136	0.00	0.00	0.03	12.36
Santa Barbara	66	-1	74	58	276	274	0.00	0.03	0.04	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	457	361	0.00	0.00	0.02	14.38
Los Angeles	74	-1	85	64	1,058	1,149	0.00	0.00	0.01	14.77
Riverside	83	5	101	66	1,268	1,143	0.00	0.00	0.04	9.58
San Diego AP	72	1	77	68	824	782	0.00	0.01	0.03	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	79	3	102	54	1,056	898	0.00	0.00	0.18	5.37
Lancaster	85	3	103	62	1,403	1,274	0.00	0.00	0.09	6.92
Daggett AP	90	1	109	73	2,201	2,189	0.01	0.01	0.39	3.93
Thermal AP	94	3	111	79	2,848	2,751	0.00	0.00	0.17	3.16
Blythe	97	2	113	81	3,046	3,036	0.00	0.00	0.33	3.60
Imperial	96	3	110	83	2,970	2,826	0.00	0.16	0.11	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	70	3	97	42	340	166	0.00	0.00	0.32	12.01
Mt. Shasta	70	1	92	48	369	248	0.00	0.00	0.45	37.02
Blue Canyon	74	5	83	66	454	283	0.00	0.00	0.46	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	96	56	657	534	0.00	0.00	0.56	37.05

Normal is defined as average over the 30-year period 1961 through 1990. Dashes (- -) in Average Week Ending and Departure from Normal columns mean less than five days reporting, while in High and Low columns mean no days reporting.

Weekly summary provided by the Western Regional Climate Center with data reported by the National Weather Service. When data are quality controlled by the National Climatic Data Center, the accumulated growing degree day and precipitation values are updated.